



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

FEBRUARY EDITION

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling
(At Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

AT Large Council member

Kelly Porter

Acting City Administrator

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

it is time to prepare the 2011/2012 Budget for the City of Seat Pleasant. Although I am only the ceremonial mayor of Seat Pleasant the charter grants me an opportunity to propose the annual budget along with the City Administrator.

First, let me express that our last year was a success in spite of the economic global crisis. My office along with the City Council and Acting City Administrator was able to control spending and make significant cuts without re-

ducing services, downsizing our work force or furloughing any of our employees. Just like many of you the city also had to deal with lower revenue and increased expenses. The State Highway User Fund and the Police Aid to Municipalities were cut 90% and 15% respectively. These cuts greatly impacted our Public Works and Police Departments the two largest departments.

Secondly, we do have challenges ahead. We still have not filled the City Administrator vacancy, Economic Development Director and several other positions that need to be filled. Additionally, we offer some of the lowest paid salaries to our employees among the 27 municipalities in the County. We also offer very low benefits as well. In fact, we do not have an adequate retirement program and we have employees who have given over 20 years of service to our beloved city. **Our employees deserve better.** Like all of us, they too have families that they must support.

If we don't address this issue we will not be able to attract or retain the talent and skills necessary to move our city forward. My proposed budget to the City Council will reflect increases in employee salaries. We must be able to attract and retain the talent and skills sets to meet the demanding needs of our residents and to keep up with the changes in our society. We need and deserve competent and capable people to do the work of our city.

I would like to hear from YOU to learn about your priorities for our city. The current budget is \$3,422,753. Our major budget items is the Police Department at 30.74% of the budget; Public Works at 23.13% of the budget; and City Administration (non-elected officials) at 10.94% of the budget. I don't have the 2011 revenue projections to provide at the time of this publication. However, I have given you an idea of where we stand. You can always go to the city's website to read the Operating Budget of the city.

Your input is invaluable as it is YOUR tax money and YOUR city. Please help me prepare a budget that reflects the hopes and aspirations of our city. With your help WE will be able to move forward in becoming A City of Excellence.

(Mayor's Message con't.)

All stakeholders are encouraged to be an integral part of this development. We need YOU, the taxpayers, churches, businesses, non-profits, elected officials our school and youth to get involved and share your thoughts. We will have an aggressive timeline that will move quickly as we would like to have our ground breaking ceremony the first part of June.

I want to thank members of our City Council, namely Council members **LaTasha Gatling**, **Elenora Simms** and **Kelly Porter** who serve with me on the planning committee. I also wish to thank our resident planning committee members including: Ms. **Jacqui Battle**, Mrs. **Eva Stokes**, Mrs. **Dorothy Pope**, Mr. **Michael Scott**, and Mrs. **Amanda Feggans**. Each of these individuals has given of their talent and time to ensure that the perspectives of our neighbors from each Ward are truly represented. This project is about our future. It's about setting a goal, developing a realistic plan, executing the plan and realizing the vision.

Seat Pleasant is a unique and beautiful community, with varying resources as well as needs. Our proximity to our Nation's Capital, make us an ideal bedroom community and it is ripe for the type of development that we are proposing. Many of you, particularly our seniors have made this a place that you call home. You moved here and raised a family and retired. Some of you have expressed your desire to stay here. We plan to ensure that opportunities are created and provisions are made to allow you to age in place with dignity, grace and convenience.

As we all work together to advance our community with one vision, one goal, and one purpose we will ALL be working toward making this A City of Excellence!

SEAT PLEASANT KICKS OFF SENIOR GREEN PROGRAM



Left to right: Wilhemina Evans, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Council President Latasha Gatling and Mayor Eugene Grant

On January, the City of Seat Pleasant kicked off its Senior Green Program with a ribbon cutting ceremony January 13th. The ceremony took place at Wilhemina Evans home in Seat Pleasant. Ms. Evans was one of the recipients of program. The Senior Green Program was a program funded through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to provide energy saving appliances to eligible applicants. Ms. Evans was one of the applicants selected to receive those appliances and her home was chosen as the model home. The City is now in Phase II of the Green Program which is open to all residents who are eligible regardless of age and will focus on the exterior of the home including windows, steps, porches, gutters, and fences. Applications are now available until March 1st at Seat Pleasant City Hall. Applications will be reviewed and applicants selected.

For more information call Jane Talbert at 301-336-2600.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The following legislation passed in the month of January:

The City Council passed the following legislation in the January 10, 2011 Public Session:

Ordinance O-11-05 Public Works Fees, this ordinance provides the fee schedule to abate properties. If you have any questions regarding the above matter, please let me know as soon as possible. Copies of the legislation are available in Office of the City Clerk.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WARD I

WARD I MEETING

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Seat Pleasant City Hall

Topic: Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 Budget

Please bring your suggestions in writing or attend the meeting and complete a form with your suggestions on the Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 Budget.



KITE FLYING DAY(S)

Saturday, April 2, 2011

Goodwin Park

311 68th Place

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 9, 2011

6225 Foote Street (Open field)

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Kites will be supplied by Councilwoman Simms for the first 25 people. Light refreshments will be served. Bring your kite and join us!

A WORD FROM COUNCILWOMAN STEPHENSON

Hey everyone its tax time!

Be aware of tax scams which are a major concern with the IRS according to MSN Money. Do not leave yourself vulnerable to penalties.

Examples of tax scams:

Phishing

Hiding income offshore

Filing of phony wage earnings

Abuse of charity deductions

Asking you for your personal information by internet or phone

Examples of frivolous tax arguments

Wages and tips aren't income

Non-U.S. citizens do not have to pay taxes

Filing a return is voluntary

Sample of "What if" questions should prompt you to contact the IRS for help

What if I can't pay my taxes?

What if I lose my job?

What if I lose my home?

What if my 401(K) drops in value?

What if I file for bankruptcy?

Report phishing scams go to: www.Phishing@IRS.gov

View a listing of scams: www.IRS.gov



Happy returns!

Councilwoman Aretha Stephenson, Ward II

(Councilwoman Stephenson is on the Finance Committee of the City Council)

THE STATE OF MARYLAND HOMEOWNER'S PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

By Robert L. Ashton

The Homeowner's Tax Credit Program provides credits against State and local real property for homeowners who qualify, based on a sliding scale of property tax liability and income. The Homeowner's Tax Credit Program is a State funded program, where the State reimburses local governments for the cost of the tax credit against local property. This program which was initiated in 1975, was originally limited to homeowner's age 60 and older and homeowners with disabilities. This program was expanded to homeowners of all ages in 1978. The last change to the tax credit program occurred in 2004. This legislative initiative changed the Property Tax Credit to bring it in line with inflationary increases in property values since 1998. It is worth pointing out that according to Maryland State Department of Taxation and Assessment currently only 165 residents participate in this program. An additional 70 Seat Pleasant residents are eligible for the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit at a net savings of \$610 per resident. The State of Maryland's Property Tax Credit Program is 100% supported by State of Maryland. The deadline for submitting the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application is September 1, 2011. The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Eligibility application can be completed one of following ways : 1. By Mailing the application to the address below 2. By Using the online Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application (Application online is due September 1, 2011). 3. By Printing and mailing the pdf application on the State Department of Assessment and Taxation web site <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation mailing address is:

Department of Assessment and Taxation
Homeowners' Tax Credit Program
301 West Preston Street
Baltimore Maryland 21201

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation web site is <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation phone number is: 410-767-4433.

If you have any questions please contact Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer 301/336-2600 extension 2230.

A WORD FROM CPAC

One constant theme we've been talking about for the past few months is community involvement. The biggest difference between success in Seat Pleasant and other parts of the county is that those residents get involved. If there's something going on in their neighborhoods, they not only speak up, they also show up to meetings in full force. It's 2011 and time for us to change. You can start by attending Seat Pleasant's town meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. Organize a neighborhood watch group on your street and look out for your neighbors. Call the non-emergency police number (301.333.4000) if you see something or someone suspicious. Don't wait for something tragic to happen; make your voice heard throughout the community now. If you want to get involved with putting a stop to crime, please join us - we need you. CPAC meets with our police department every month and we discuss public safety issues that affect all of us in Seat Pleasant. We need residents from every ward represented on this council and if you want to be a part of this change, please let us know by sending an email to cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

CODE ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

FYI- Here are frequently asked questions and the answers.

What is the procedure with putting trash out and the proper container for trash to be placed in?

§ 129-12. Residential collections. [Added 4-14-1969 by Ord. No. 69-02]

A. All refuse; trash and garbage shall be placed in containers of not less than 10 or more than 20 gallons' capacity. Refuse containers shall be provided by the owner or tenant and maintained in a leak proof and sanitary condition. No trash or garbage shall be placed in paper or cardboard containers. Containers shall

be made of metal or of a type approved by The Mayor and Council and shall have tight-fitting lids. No container shall be too heavy to be manageable by one person.

B. Trash and garbage containers shall be placed at the curb for collection no earlier than darkness of the day before collection and must be removed to the rear of properties and out of public view by darkness on the day of collection.

C. Commercial establishments and multifamily residences of more than three units shall be exempt from Subsections A and B.1

D. Public trash receptacles shall be used exclusively for street litter.

§ 129-13. Violations and penalties. [Amended 2-14-1994 by Ord. No. 94-01]

Violations of the provisions in this article shall constitute a municipal infraction with a fine of \$400.

BULKY TRASH COLLECTION

All bulk trash is collected on Wednesday by appointment only. You must call Bates Trucking by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday to be placed on the list. (Call 301-773-2069) You are only allowed three (3) large items. Residents please note if you don't call on Tuesday then you should not put any items out. If items are placed out and you're not on the pick up list and the items are left on the street you may be subject to a fine.

When is a permit required?

Any construction, erection or alterations to any building or structure within said city. Here are a few instances that you will need a permit.

Sheds that are more than 150 square feet
Build enclosed carport
Build or replace porch and deck
Fence over 4ft tall

Constructing an entrance to basement
Retaining wall over 2ft tall

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT GETS NEW VEHICLES



Public Works receiving class training

The City of Seat Pleasant recently purchase sorely needed equipment for the Public Works Department. The first purchase was a heavy duty all season enclosed tractor which can be used all year long for light construction, landscaping, street cleaning and in the winter for snow removal. It even has a snow blower attachment. The second piece of equipment purchased was a street sweeper that can maneuver between parked cars and can be used year round as well. Public Works received training about the new equipment before use.

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT/UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Taking care of our heart is one of the most important things we can do to protect and improve our health. Paying attention to heart health will help prevent heart disease and high blood pressure, two of the leading causes of death in the United States (and the rates are especially high in African Americans). There are a number of things you can do to take care of your heart, including eating a healthy diet, keeping a healthy weight, exercising often, not smoking and limiting how much alcohol you drink. You should also have your cholesterol checked, check your blood pressure often, manage your diabetes (if you have it), take any medicines you have been prescribed, and talk with your doctor regularly.

You can find out about heart health from your doctor and it is important to ask him/her questions when you
(continued on the next page)

You can find out about heart health from your doctor and it is important to ask him/her questions when you have an appointment. For example, ask your doctor:

- What is my risk for heart disease?
 - What is my blood pressure? What do those two numbers mean?
 - What is my cholesterol level? What does the number mean?
 - If I have high blood pressure or high cholesterol, what do I do to take care of it?
 - What is "body mass index" and what is a good range for me?
 - What is my blood sugar level? What is a "healthy" range? Am I at risk for diabetes? If I am, what should I do about it?
 - Do you know of a program that will help me to stop smoking?
- How much physical activity do I need to protect my heart?

It is also important to know the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and stroke. The five most common signs and symptoms for a heart attack are pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck or neck, feeling weak, light-headed or faint, chest pain or discomfort, pain or discomfort in your arms or shoulders, and shortness of breath. The five most common ones for a stroke include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding others, sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, sudden dizziness or trouble walking, or loss of balance or coordination, and sudden severe headache with no known cause. If you have any of these, immediately call your doctor or 911. Getting help right away can save your life!

Sharon M. Desmond, Ph.D., Co-chairperson

Seat Pleasant University of Maryland Health Partnership (SPUM-HP)

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Did you know that three letters can save a life in the event that someone stops breathing? That's right! C. P. R! Along with early defibrillation and early activation of the 911 system the chance of surviving cardiac or respiratory arrest are 30-40% better. The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company understands that and we are working to bring the citizens of Seat Pleasant a dynamic CPR class that trains citizens on CPR. The following article is a study performed by the University of Iowa about CPR and defibrillation.

What's the first thing to do when you witness someone collapse from cardiac arrest? If the victim is unresponsive, call 911, then start CPR, says the American Heart Association.

"Experts agree that early defibrillation—an electric shock that returns the heartbeat to normal—is vital for survival," says Dr. Richard Kerber, professor of internal medicine at the University of Iowa College of Medicine and staff physician with UI Hospitals and Clinics. "But CPR continues to be key in emergency treatment of patients who have cardiac arrest." and new findings suggest that 1-2 minutes of CPR prior to defibrillation enhances the likelihood of resumption of circulation and survival.



Kerber was chairman of the Heart Association Emergency Cardiac Care Committee that developed a "chain of survival" designed to improve the survival rates of people who experience heart attacks. The links in the chain are: 1-early activation of the emergency medical system, which means calling 911 immediately; 2-early CPR; 3-early defibrillation; and 4-advanced cardiac life support.

When those four activities are carried out efficiently, the survival rate for patients can be as high as 30 percent to 40 percent. However, many U.S. communities do not have a 911 emergency phone system, and some ambulances do not carry a portable defibrillator.

(This article will be continued in the next issue.)



Central Avenue - Metro Blue Line Corridor Implementation Project
City of Seat Pleasant - Community Questionnaire

The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has initiated the Central Avenue-Metro Blue Line Corridor Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Implementation project. The project will focus on the following, transit-oriented development, pedestrian safety and access, retaining current and attracting new businesses, and supporting neighborhood investment and revitalization. Your involvement is essential to this TOD implementation effort. In order to assist with this important project, please answer the following seven questions:

1. What do you like best about your community? _____

Feel free to use the reverse of the sheet for additional comments.

2. What would you like to improve in your community? _____

3. Are there problems with curbs, gutters, streets, sidewalks, and/or lighting in your community? Yes or No
 a. If yes, please indicate what the problems are and where.

4. Are there other areas of concern in your community? Yes or No
 a. If yes, please indicate what concerns you have.

5. What types of businesses would you like to see in your community? _____

6. Do you and/or your family ride Metro? If so, how do you usually get there?
 a. Walk
 b. Take the bus
 c. Drive and park
 d. Dropped off by another driver

7. What are your concerns about pedestrian safety (from your experience or observation)? *(choose all that apply)*
 a. Limited locations for pedestrians to safely cross the road
 b. Not enough intersections with traffic signals and/or pedestrian signals
 c. Not enough space on the sidewalk for people to walk together
 d. Sidewalks are too close to the road
 e. Intersections are too wide to safely cross
 f. Not enough street and pedestrian-level lights to feel safe at dawn, dusk and night
 g. Other _____

Please return the questionnaire to:

M-NCPPC, Community Planning North Division
 Attn: Tanya Hedgepeth
 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
 Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



For additional information, please call 301-780-8165, TTY 301-952-4366, or visit our website at www.pgplanning.org

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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F.Y.I. REPORTING STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

You can report street light outages directly to Pepco at 1-877-737-2662. The more specific information that you can provide regarding the location, address, and pole number of the light (see below) will help their field personnel make repairs. Residents can also report outages online at www.pepco.com/home/requests/outage/streetLight and look under the section for Report Street Light outage and for other information regarding Street Light outages. Please note that the omission of pole number, nearest landmark or intersection could prolong repair time.



Picture of a pole number.
The pole number for this light would be:
767452-1464.